Thanksgiving 1927 1949

HOW SHALL WE BE THANKFUL? Nov 20, 1927

Psa. 116:12 What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?

INTRO. 8 Thanksgiving the beginning of Holidays, soon be Xmas. Testimony of U.S. Postal worker- letters to Santa Claus. Only one thanking him.

Confirms truth of legend of St. peter's sending 2 angels to earth with baskets to collect the petitions and thanksgivings of the people on earth.

We are prone to ask for the thingswe want, but incline to forget to thank the Giver.

Customary at Thanksgiving time to count our many blessings. But we cannot!

The little boy's reckonings.
365 days, -mercies
8,760 hrs
525,600 minutes.
parents, loved ones, friends,
health, food and shelter
books, teachers, school.
Then he gave up indespair.

Trouble is when we start to count we are apt to make comparisons, and lose our thankfulness. Somebody else has so much more than we have, and that makes us unhappy. The poor woman who had for her Xmas dinner only a piece of dry bread and a toasted herring.

A neighbor remarked to her, "Its too bad you have to fare so poorly when others are rolling in wealth. But this poor lady was rich in thankfulness and she replied, with face all aglow, "Poor fare? Dear heart, dont you see that the Lord has laid tribute on land and sea to feed me this blessed Xmas Day?"

The poorest of the poor and the richest of the rich and all the rest of us who come between are so heavily obligated to God from the standpoint of blessings received that the question, "Why we should be thankful?" becomes utterly rediculous. We should be far less concerned over what we have to be thankful for than "How can I best show my gratitude to God for all his benefits

Text-read What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits? toward me?

2. Ps. 116:13

I. I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

1. I will take God into my life. The inward life of the Spirit.

Behind shut doors and lowered shades the lights glow, telling of human life within. What happiness in some rooms, what misery on others! What innocence and purity in some, what shame and guilt in ohhers

Each one of these closed, lighted rooms is a symbol of the human spirit. The light shining upon our countenances indicates that there are persons withi these bodies of ours. But each one has his own secret life within, his real life where noone lives but the self and where only God can enter if we will let him. Where is your God? "hat place do you give Him within your inner ~~chamber?~~ self?

2 What the presence of God does to a person.

A community or a country divided into factions-but a common enemy will unity all factions into a common force against the common enemy.

A person within himself is divided, he is not a uni ted whole with all parts in harmony with one anot another. Mind and feelings and will at outs.

When God enters one inner chamber the person become a unified whole, in perfect harmony. Joy fills hi soul and his heart runs over with gratitude to God

If you dont feel grateful to God give him a larger place in your secret chamber. Try fellowship with him. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The missionary cast down because of sad newa from home. Could not lift burden of depression. Goining into a mission station, he saw the motto "Try thabksgiving" and he did. He dropt his bur den in the presence of God and a great wave of thankfulness came into his heart and his sorrow was drowned in joy.

The Psalmist declares, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations". Is God the dwellingkplace of your inner sectet self?

When we give God his rightful place, prayer becomes

II. ~~I will pay my vows unto the Lord.~~

natural and thankfulness spontaneous.

"Ps. 98:1 O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marveious things."

Ps. 102:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

3 2.

Ps.97:1 The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad."
Ps.107:1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever."
Ps.122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Ps 116:14 II. I will pay my vows unto the Lord.

1. We best express our thankfulness to God by a right use of the gifts He bestows upon us.
Love and friendship and fellowship are mutual-when all is one-sided love cannot live. Life all the way thru is a 50-50 proposition. When God does so much for us it is no more than right that we should do what we can for him.

a. All our possessions come from God.
A boy was carrying home a loaf of bread. A friend asked him, "What have you there?"
"A loaf of bread"
"Where did you get it?"
"At the baker's."
"Where did the baker get it?"
"He made it."
"Of what did he make it?"
"Flour"
"Where did he get the flour?"
"From the miller."
"Where did the miller get it?"
"From the farmer."
"Where did the farmer get it?"
Then the ~~boy~~ truth dawned upon the boy's mind and he quickly replied, "From God".

b. We hear of a man who has amassed millions and we ask how he did it. And we hear the answer, He made his millions by his industry, thrift, energy, enterprise, sagacity, inventiveness, courage." But where did he get his talents and inclinations? He got them from God.
The testimony of one of America's multi-millionaires is, while in London-"We keep piling up millions because of our greed." "Greed is the millionaire's motive".

c. It is right that we should give to God and share with one another the blessings God gives to us. Just to keep them for ourselves is the height of ingratitude, is one of the grossest of sins.

True, immense sums are being given away, but not in proportion to the needs. There is scarcely a church, a college,

a charitable institution that does not suffer for the lack of adequate means.

d. There are some Xns who complain that they are being constantly asked to give, give, give, to this, that and the other cause. They frown and say, "What next? Is there ever going to be an end to this giving?" No, my brother and sister in the Lord, there is not going to be an end to giving until the kingdom of God is come on earth. And the demands will not lessen as time passes, but will increase, they will become more and still more and then s some more.

e. Butlet noone think that he is mompelled to give.
God wants no unwilling gifts, no offerings accompanied by scowls and complaints. If you can give to the Lord only grudgingly, if giving to help worthy causes and nee needy children of God is a painful duty instead of a rare prive, ege, if you cannot give cheerfully and gladly, then you had better keep your money, for God does'nt want it to come to him that way. God loves a cheerful giver, one who gives out of a sense of just appreciatio ion, with a heart filled with gratitude to God for all the benefits that he has received.

2. We not only justly express our gratitude by givingof our possessions, but also by giving our personal servi ice to the Lord.
God gives himself freely to us that we might live and have life more abundantly; it is right that we should give our Self to Him in some form of Xn service.
Some men think that if they give the money, others can do the work.

The Church in every department calls for service.
S.S., Missionary, L.A., visitation and invitation.
Educational and philanthropic institutions, political parties and civic government all call for personal service insofar as our ability and opportunity permit.

Con. What is thankfulness? Poor widow living in a hut, thru the cracks the snow whirled inside. She covered her boy with boards, because she had no blankets. The boy said to his mother, smiling, "Ma, what do poor folks do these cold nights who have'nt any boards to put over their children?"
How can we best express our thankfulness?
By sharing our inner life
By giving our soul chamber with God
By giving of our means and ourselves in loving service

Read Prayer—Sherwood Eddy